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Horticultural Varieties

HARDY NUT TREES

We are testing many varieties of nut trees, the best of which are listed here.

Some of the older varieties we have dropped because of finding better ones. Others are being held up pending the solution of such problems as pollination and adaptation to climate.

Our varieties are selected primarily for hardiness, fruitfulness and the size and quality of the nuts they produce. While there is nothing finer for shade and ornamental planting, they should be thought of as fruit trees.

Grafted varieties of our Chinese, Japanese and hybrid chestnuts may be expected to bear within two or three years from planting; the seedlings a year or two later. Most of the English and black walnuts listed will begin bearing within three years under good conditions. In a sentence, the more precocious species will bear as soon as a peach and all should compare favorably with the apple in earliness of bearing.

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Mountain Nut Co.

H. F. STOKE, Prop.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

FOREWORD

NUT TREES make attractive specimen trees for the lawn; are fine for lining drives; ideal for poultry runs. They may be planted in the orchard to replace missing fruit trees, or may be planted in solid orchard form. In our own orchard we are planting chestnuts forty feet apart and interplanting with peach trees. For good nut crops give trees plenty of sunlight and room. Practically no nuts are ever produced in thick woods. Nut trees are fruit trees; care for them as such and you will be abundantly rewarded.

Chestnuts will grow on poor acid soils, but respond to better treatment. Walnuts prefer fertile, moist (but not wet) soils, not too acid. Pecans will tolerate more moisture than any other nut tree. Hazels will tolerate more shade.

For a number of years we have been collecting and testing the best nut-producers we have been able to find. This listing is the result of these years of testing, and is being issued in response to the increasing number of inquiries we are receiving.

Some of the varieties have come from the ends of the earth; others have originated in this locality; a few we have originated ourselves.

We have a fair stock of seedling blight-resisting Chinese and Japanese chestnut trees. Our stock of other varieties is very limited, in some instances amounting to less than a dozen trees. Such as we have are offered subject to prior sale. We hope to have a larger supply by next season.

This list is offered in the hope that others may have as much pleasure in the study and growing of nut trees as has been the lot of the writer.

Sincerely,

H. F. STOKE,
Roanoke, Virginia

THE CHINESE CHESTNUT

Castanea mollissima

The following description of the Chinese Chestnut is quoted from the 1937 Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture.

“The Chinese Chestnut is highly resistant to blight, and so far as observed, the best seedlings and varieties bear freely without being overproductive.

“Some of the heaviest bearing trees of this species in a seedling orchard located at the United States Pecan Field Station, Albany, Ga., now 10 or 12 years old, are annually producing from 50 to 70 pounds of nuts each.

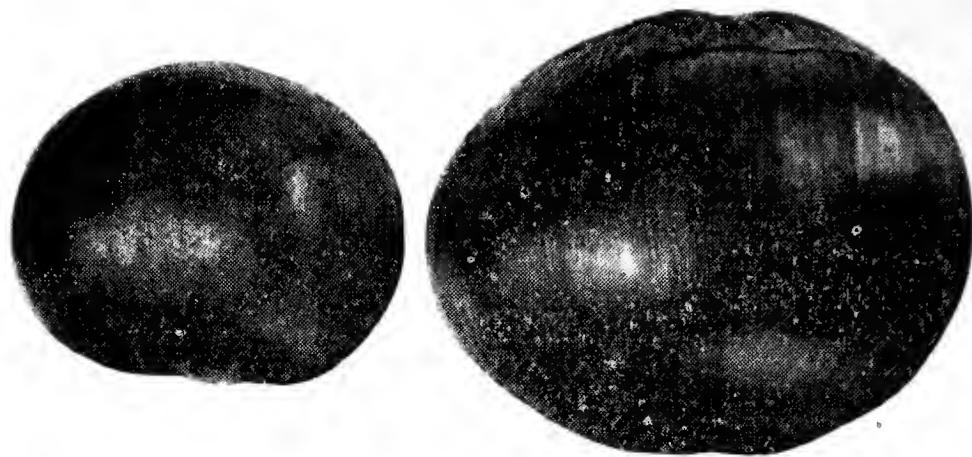
“The finest nuts of the Chinese species are about all that could be desired. The largest are equal in size to the average chestnuts imported from Italy.”

The Chinese chestnut makes a pleasing and striking lawn tree, with its long, crinkled leaves and large burrs. What is more important, it gives every promise of becoming a profitable orchard crop. More than 50,000 trees have been distributed by the United States government during the past 25 years. These are growing on a large variety of soils and elevations from Georgia to New York.

The trees are hardy, but show some winter-killing at 30 degrees below zero. They show decided resistance to drought. Bearing of seedling trees usually begins in from three to five years from transplanting. Grafted trees begin bearing sooner.

Blossoming occurs in June and nuts ripen in September, a month before the American chestnut in this locality. The nuts are larger than the American chestnut and equally as sweet. So far they have been much less subject to the chestnut weevil that infests the native chestnut, and are better keepers.

The seeding trees we offer have been grown from select, large imported nuts. In our own orchard, now coming into bearing, we have both grafted and seeding trees. From now on we will produce our own seed, selecting the best strains for planting.



NATURAL SIZE

Chinese Chestnut Japanese Chestnut

The CARR is a grafted variety of the Chinese chestnut, named in honor of Mr. R. D. Carr, of Magnolia, N. C., who is owner of the parent tree. It grew from seed brought from Tientsin, China, by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1915. The tree is a sturdy grower, with characteristic dark green leaves. The nuts are large and of the finest quality. This variety apparently is partially self-fertile, but bears better crops when cross-pollenized. It ripens here about September 10.

HOBSON comes from a lot of seed collected to the north-east of Peking, China, in 1915. The parent tree is in the mountains of north Georgia.

The tree is an unusually fast grower for the Chinese species and comes into bearing early. When cross-pollenized it bears good crops every year. The nuts are above average size and of highest quality. It ripens about ten days later than the Carr.

RELIABLE is an annual producer of medium size nuts of high quality. The parent tree is on our grounds at Roanoke, Va. It ripens between Carr and Hobson. It is a proven pollenizer for Hobson, and is now offered for the first time.

In addition to the above we have grafted in our orchard a dozen choice selections from the thousands of trees that have been distributed by the Government during the past twenty-five years. Such of these as may finally receive the Government O. K. will be named and released to the public.

THE JAPANESE CHESTNUT

Castanea crenata

The following is quoted from the 1937 Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture:

“The Japanese Chestnut is outstanding in its precocity, prolificacy, habit of annual bearing, and the large size and attractiveness of the nuts.”

The tree is hardy and resistant to the blight, but is not so strong a grower as the Chinese species.

Selected varieties produce the largest chestnuts known, some of them being more than 2 inches across and weighing 11 to the pound. When eaten raw they are not equal in flavor to the Chinese or American nut. Boiled or roasted, as prepared by the Japanese they are excellent.

Our seedling trees are produced from large, select nuts. The named varieties all produce large nuts and are grafted on either Chinese or Japanese stocks.

AUSTIN, which is unusually sweet for a Japanese, comes to us from Deleware. It is the first of the Japanese chestnuts to ripen.

MURDEN, a vigorous grower, ripens in mid-season. The parent tree stands near Norfolk, Va.

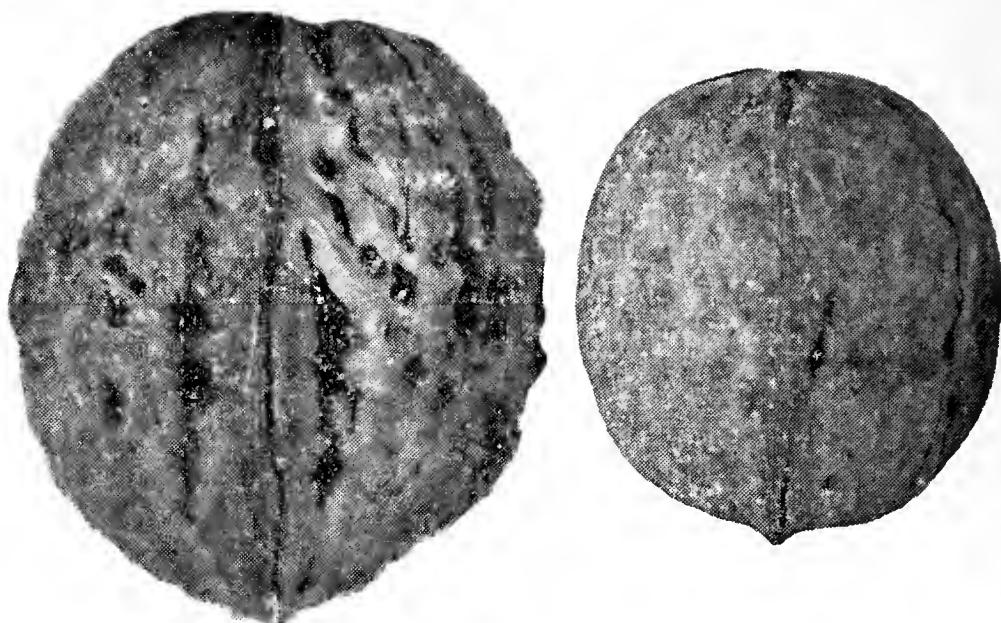
VIBBERT is the latest of all to ripen. The parent tree is in Connecticut.

HYBRID CHESTNUT

mollissima x crenata

Of the many hybrid chestnuts we are testing, we offer the STOKE as being sufficiently tested for introduction.

The tree is a strong, upright grower and regular bearer. The nuts are the most attractive we have ever seen, the rich, glossy brown color enduring even when completely dry. They are intermediate in size between the Chinese and Japanese nuts. The flavor is excellent. This hybrid ripens first of all, beginning on or before September 1. The parent tree is located at Roanoke, Va.



CUTS NATURAL SIZE

Alpine English Walnut Payne English Walnut

THE ENGLISH WALNUT

Juglans regia

The so-called English Walnut has been known and cultivated for thousands of years. No other nut species has so wide distribution, nor is found under a wider range of climatic conditions.

Our trees are grafted on native American black walnut stocks.

The CRAUTH variety is originally from the Carpathian mountains of Poland. We secured our scions from Reverend P. C. Crath, the introducer, from a tree now growing and producing near Toronto, Canada. It matures its wood early in the season and is very hardy. The nuts are medium size and good quality.

The BROADVIEW, from British Columbia, grew from a nut near Odessa, Russia. The parent tree is hardy in a climate with temperatures of 30 degrees below zero. The tree is very vigorous and comes into bearing very young. We have them bearing three years from grafting in the nursery row. The nut is large, long, thin-shelled and of fine quality. This is our prize variety. It is thriving splendidly in Virginia.

The ALPINE, a very large, precocious variety of French origin, is doing well in Virginia. The parent tree is in Pennsylvania.

The PAYNE, a fine commercial variety from California, is prolific and precocious. This is our choice for the upper South. It has not been tested North, but has withstood 10 degrees below zero here.

The BEDFORD parent tree is found locally. The nut is of fine quality, similar to Mayette in shape, but slightly larger. It is hardy here, not tested in the North.



NATURAL SIZE

Sifford Black Walnut

Japanese Heartnut

AMERICAN BLACK WALNUT

Juglans nigra

The American Black Walnut is America's finest timber tree, producing the finest of cabinet wood. A striking lawn tree, it is one of the few under which grass thrives. As a fruit tree, its nuts are without a rival for flavoring cakes, ice cream and confectionary.

During a search covering a number of years we have discovered a number of black walnuts that score as high or higher than the older named varieties. Of these we offer the following:

SIFFORD, from the mountains of Virginia, we consider the best black walnut we have ever seen. The thin-shelled nuts are large, running 19 to the pound. The kernel runs 31% ; the average common nut runs 15% kernel. It hulls out clean and cracks exceptionally well.

PINECREST, from the mountains of Central Pennsylvania, is very similar in size, shape and cracking quality to the Sifford. The kernel percentage is 29%. New growth matures early, with thick, sturdy twigs. We strongly recommend it for more northern areas.

THE JAPANESE HEARTNUT

Juglans Sieboldiana cordiformis

The HEARTNUT is a sport of the Japanese walnut. The tree is of spreading habit, with leaves much like the butternut. The heart-shaped nuts, which grow in abundant clusters, taste much like the English walnut, tho milder. We offer the Walters, a large, hardy variety from British Columbia.

The Butternut

Juglans cinerea

The well known butternut of boyhood days, which is probably the hardiest of our nut trees.

The Filbert

Corylus avellana

The Filbert, or European hazel, forms a small, beautiful, fruitful tree. It is very hardy.

We have narrowed our selections down to the two that have done best for us.

BRIXNUT is a very large, round filbert from Oregon. It is a vigorous grower and good producer.

HALL'S GIANT is very similar to Brixnut, and a proven pollenizer for same.

Turkish Tree Hazel

Corylus colurna

This hazel becomes a large forest tree, and thrives under conditions that would kill our native hazel. Its nuts are small and hard-shelled, but palatable. It never throws up suckers from the roots, and makes a very desirable stock on which to graft commercial varieties of filbert.

In Conclusion

Do not spend money for trees unless you love them well enough to plant them properly where they will get plenty of room and sunlight. Give some cultivation while they are young. Use no fertilizer the first year, but an increasing amount thereafter.

If you are really interested in nut culture you will profit by joining the Northern Nut Grower's Association. Send your application with \$2.00 annual dues, to George L. Slate, Secretary, Geneva, New York.

You will enjoy the society of the Nut Growers. They are people of imagination and vision, of sentiment and sense. They come from every walk of life but you will feel at home among them if your memory still treasures the lure of Autumn sunlight, frosty mornings, and pockets stuffed with forest loot—the Open Sesame to the Order of Eternal Boyhood.

They are conservationists in the best sense of the word—the salt of the earth.